**Haddon Township Police Department**

**Mission Statement:**

To promote public safety; to prevent, suppress and investigate crimes; to provide emergency and nonemergency services; to create and maintain strong community partnerships; to adapt a multi-disciplinary approach to solving community problems; and to develop and promote a diverse, professional workforce.

**Subdivisions:**

The Haddon Township Police Department is a full-service police department serving the citizens in and around Haddon Township, New Jersey. Our department features several sub-divisions that work together to provide exceptional services and safety to our citizens.

The Haddon Township Police Department also polices the Borough of Audubon Park, which borders the Township, as of August 1, 2009.

**Patrol Department**

Police services will be provided through twenty four hour patrolling of the Township. Crime

deterrence and voluntary compliance with traffic regulations are aided by visibility of patrol

resources. Special emphases will be directed to documenting crime and unsafe conditions that are observed by an officer or reported to the officer. Mandatory, specialized and in-service training will be provided to all personnel which will enable them to handle extraordinarily dangerous criminals and incidents.

The department is committed to the Concept of Community Policing, informing the citizens about techniques of crime prevention and encouraging citizen involvement and support of law enforcement. Quick response will be provided to calls for service and personnel will provide courteous, professional advice, and assistance as required.

The safe and orderly flow of vehicles within the township shall be facilitated through proactive patrol and specialized techniques. Accidents are investigated, documented, and analyzed to determine the most effective deployment of the traffic enforcement resources, the analyses will also assist in improving traffic engineering.

**Criminal Investigation Unit**

The Haddon Township Police Department has a Criminal Investigations Unit comprised of three

officers. The unit is supervised by Detective Sergeant Scott Bishop. Under his command are

Detective Don Quinn and Detective Thomas Whalen. The detectives are responsible for

performing follow-up investigations. They are also required to be “on call” and respond to a crime scene to locate, process, and collect evidence. A detective must be able to perform a thorough investigation and interview both witnesses and suspects. Crimes of violence and those endangering the public safety are given highest priority. Proactive and covert investigations are initiated, particularly in the area of narcotics enforcement and property crimes, to identify and apprehend drug traffickers and burglars.

Det. Sgt. Scott Bishop (856) 854-1176 ex.4135

Det. Don Quinn (856) 854-1176 ex.4171

Det. Thomas Whalen (856) 854-1176 ex.4153

**Community Policing Department**

The Haddon Township Police Department’s Community Policing assists and addresses quality of life issues that are important to the citizens of Haddon Township and the Borough of Audubon Park. The department works closely with varied members of the community and community based organizations, to identify and solve problems. The Community Policing Department oversees the D.A.R.E. program, Adopt-A-Cop, and the School Crossing Guards. The Community Policing Unit also provides school safety programs, crime prevention seminars, and senior citizen fraud seminars.

The Haddon Township Police Department also initiated a Neighborhood Watch Program. The

program is designed to assist the police department with observing suspicious incidents and

criminal behavior. Members are requested to contact police when something is observed. All that is asked of a member is to watch their neighbor’s home, as they would want their neighbor to watch their home. Members will also receive E-mails about current crime trends in their

community. Any group or organization that would like the assistance of the Community Policing

Any individual that would like the assistance of the Community Policing Unit can contact the Police Department at (856) 854-1176 ext. 4129.

**History of the HTPD to Present**

The Haddon Township Police Department was formed on June 1, 1926. The holdup of the Westmont National Bank was the incentive for creation of the police department. Up to that time the township, one of the oldest districts in the Camden County, had never experienced organized police protection. Chief Horace Whitehead was the first appointed officer. In March 1927, three more officers were added and the department increased to nine men in 1929.

From the inception of the police department, Chief Whitehead's major public safety concern was an area of the Black Horse Pike called "Road House Row." This was a string of taverns that were frequented by known gangsters. On December 30, 1928, three people were killed and an additional three people wounded during what was later called the Black Horse Pike Massacre. This was determined to be a "gangland hit." A similar incident was prevented on October 3, 1931. Sgt. Charles "Reds" Craig apprehended three males in a parked vehicle outside of the Golden Slipper, a local tavern, who were assembling a machine gun and two shotguns. Sgt. Craig ordered the three men out of the vehicle and placed them into custody with the help of Patrolman George Schuck. A fourth male put the vehicle in gear and sped away on the Black Horse Pike. Sgt. Craig immediately pulled his revolver from the holster and fired at the vehicle in an attempt to stop the criminal. His shots were accurate and struck the fleeing vehicle but the gangster was able to escape. Luckily incidents of this nature were rare.

During the year 1931 the department investigated 885 complaints, made 111 arrests, responded to 117 motor vehicle accidents (four being fatal accidents), answered 46 fire calls and 13 ambulance calls. There were also 25 residential burglaries or attempted burglaries. Summonses were issued to 126 motorists for violations of various kinds.

In 1932, the department maintained two patrol cars and two motorcycles. The Police Department was first located at the rear of the Tax Office located at Haddon and Reeve Avenues. It was then moved in 1928 to the Westmont Fire House on Center Street. On January 1, 1931, the police department had it's own building located on Highland Avenue to the rear of the Westmont Fire House. It was then relocated to 10 Reeve Avenue where the current Municipal Annex building is now. The department is currently located in the bottom floor of the Municipal building located at 135 Haddon Avenue.

On June 19, 1934, William Snyder was promoted to the rank of Chief and led the department until 1957. William Gorman was then appointed Chief until his retirement in 1968. Albert Lewko became the fourth Chief until 1978 when Robert H. Saunders was elevated to the top rank. In 1988, Charles Gooley was promoted to Chief and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1995. Joseph Gallagher Jr. was then promoted to Chief, followed by Mark Cavallo, the current Chief of Police.

Through the years the Haddon Township Police Department has grown from a single man department to having up to 28 Officers. Currently there is a Chief; a captain; three Sergeants, a Detective Sergeant, two Detectives, a Community Policing Officer, and a School Resource Officer. Several officers are currently serving as DARE Officers and several others serve as Adopt-A-Cops. The department also has members serving on the Zone Once Critical Incident Team and on a Serious/Fatal Crash Team. Two civilian employees are also employed as a Records Clerk and Communications Specialist.

In the beginning the department used motorcycles to patrol and then went to automobiles. There have been many different makes and styles of vehicles used for patrol. The department has just gone to a new design for its patrol vehicles.

A typical patrol car contains numerous pieces of equipment that the Patrol Officers use on a daily basis. Among this equipment are the following: a radar unit, a mobile data terminal (computer), a video camera, and a police radio. The trunks of the patrol cars contain first aid kits, oxygen units, cardiac defibulators, flares, and an assortment of other items.

In the last ten years the police department has become mostly computerized. Reports that were once hand written or typed are now completed on a computer. This allows for easier record keeping and recall of incidents. The department is also using an "inkless" fingerprinting system that automatically sends an arrestee's fingerprints to the FBI's national database. The Haddon Township Police Department prides itself on being on the "cutting edge" of new technology.